

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, February 9, 2010

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Elk Point 4-H

Speaks out

Page 3

Early Deadline

Due to Monday's Family Day holiday, deadline for advertising and news for the Feb. 16 issue will be 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Novice teams host tourney

...Page 7



Vicki Brooker photo

Penz skips Grand Challenge winners

Joe Serniak (left) presents the Shamrock Valley Enterprises trophy for the Elk Point Oilmen's Bonspiel Grand Challenge event to Steve Penz, Scott Penz, Don Anderson and Paige White after their win over Canadian Nitrogen in Saturday's final.

Bassett named Elk Point's 2010 Oilman of the Year

By VICKI BROOKER

Review Staff

When Doug Bassett opened up the Edmonton Journal one weekend morning back in the spring of 1984, he also opened the door to life in a new community, a community that honoured him Saturday night with the presentation of the 2010 Elk Point Oilman of the Year award.

The story Bassett read that long-ago morning said that an oil company was planning to drill 200 new wells in the Elk Point area, and since things were slow in the Redwater oilpatch at the time, he planned a road trip for the next day.

Driving down Sec. Hwy. 640, Bassett could hardly believe his eyes. There were 10 service rigs working on Section 18 and nine more on Section 24.

By the next day, he'd decided to set up shop in Elk Point, and shortly thereafter, he moved his wife and two children to their new home town. His business, Porta Construction, sponsored a men's hockey team that next winter and George Hahn, who told Bassett's story at Saturday's Oilmen's Bonspiel banquet, said "only Don Mudryk and I remember how ugly the sweaters were." That team later became the B & R Bullets, a team with

much more attractive sweaters that is still playing today.

Hahn listed Bassett's many local involvements, including ongoing support for minor hockey and the A. G. Ross Arena, more than 20 years with the Elk Point and District Lions Club, and many years as a minor ball coach, with gold and silver Provincial medals to show for it and a diamond at the local ball field named after him. He has also been a year-round volunteer sports reporter for the Elk Point Review for many years, praising and encouraging local minor sports enthusiasts through his writing.

(Continued on Page 5)

E-Can halts Shamrock's win streak

By VICKI BROOKER

Review Staff

Leonard Gadowski's hopes to gain the title as the skip with the most-ever Elk Point Oilmen's Bonspiel championships to his credit were nipped in the bud when Steve Penz and his E-Can Oilfield Services rinkmates swept by the Shamrock Valley Enterprises rink in their Thursday night match-up, sending Gadowski to the 'D' Event. This gave Penz a clear shot at his first Oilmen's championship since 2001, when he led the Jorvik rink, which also included Don Mudryk, Ron Ballas and the late Pete Stafford, to victory.

Penz, his brother Scott, Don Anderson and Paige White went on to defeat the Tryton Tool rink in the semi-finals to win a berth in the Grand Challenge, where they overpowered Joe Breland and his Canadian Nitrogen foursome by a lopsided 8-1 score in just six ends to win the Tarsands Steam Cleaning trophy. Tryton claimed third place in the 'A' event.

The 'B' final, however, lasted a full nine ends. Robyn Moroziuk and fellow MRC Midfield curlers Bryce Lorensen, Mitch Brekko and Kurt Becker and the Hahn Welding foursome kept the crowd glued to the windows and everyone guessing, but it was eventually the Midfield crew that counted the most points from houses liberally filled with red and yellow rocks. PowerComm placed third in the event.

The 'C' final saw Terry Gusnowski and his B & R Eckels rink, made up of Doug Bassett, Keith Campbell and a position shared by Chris Gusnowski and Jerry Kopeck, come off a semifinal win over Weatherford Elk Point to successfully take on the spiel's second Weatherford rink, this one from Bonnyville.

(Continued on Page 6)



A misty-eyed Doug Bassett accepts his gold oil rig-topped Elk Point Oilman of the Year trophy from long-time friend George Hahn.

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Firearm, drug charges follow search

By Cst. JOHN SPAANS
Elk Point RCMP
Detachment

On Feb. 4 and 5, the Elk Point RCMP executed search warrants on a property 20 km north of the Frog Lake First Nations.

Members initially searched the residence on Feb. 4, for firearms after receiving information that the homeowner was in possession of firearms while prohibited from doing so. During the search, members came across evidence that suggested the homeowner was dealing controlled substances.

A second search warrant was applied for and executed during the morning of Feb. 5. As a result of the search, approximately \$12,000 worth of crack

cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, cannabis marihuana and ecstasy were located. Members also seized firearms, ammunition and home-made spiked weapons. Approximately \$1600 in cash was seized.

The searches were conducted with the with the assistance of the Cold Lake, St. Paul, Kitscoty, Vermilion and Lloydminster RCMP Detachments as well as Alberta Fish and Wildlife.

The accused is identified as Ivor Franz of Bonnyville, Alberta. The 63-year-old male faces 12 charges, including possession of controlled substances for the purpose of trafficking, unlawful possession of firearms, and possession of property obtained by crime.

Franz will appear in Cold Lake Provincial Court to speak to these charges.

Charges laid in hit-and-run

On Jan. 19, two Elk Point residents woke up to find their vehicle had been hit some time during the night. The vehicles had been sideswiped by another vehicle that did not remain on scene. During the course of the investigation, the driver of the suspect vehicle attended the detachment and admitted to committing the hit and run. The male admitted to leaving the Empress Lounge in Elk Point in his pickup truck. While driving home, the male struck the two parked vehicles. The 40-year-old male was charged with failing to remain at the scene of a collision under the Traffic Safety Act.

Complaint of a stolen vehicle

During the night of January 19, Elk Point RCMP responded to a complaint of a stolen vehicle in Frog Lake. Three males attended the complainant's residence and took a Chevrolet Astro van. Police made patrols for the stolen vehicle and located it parked in a driveway. When members approached the vehicle, a number of suspects were found passed out inside. The males were taken into custody but one of the suspects walked into the residence before being arrested. He was taken into custody a short time later.

One of the suspects was found to be in possession of marihuana when arrested. Once the suspect males were identified and the complainant notified, police were told that one of the males actually had permission to have the vehicle. Theft charges were not laid.

Assault with a weapon

On Jan. 21 at 7:30 a.m., Elk Point RCMP responded to a fight at a residence in Fishing Lake. Investigation found that a 60-year-old Fishing Lake male swung a baseball bat at the 21-year-old victim. The bat struck the victim in the chest. The suspect male then smashed a coffee mug on the victim's head causing further injury. Police attended to find all involved parties at the residence. Four individuals were taken into custody for their involvement in the occurrence. The victim was treated for his injuries at an area hospital. Charges were laid against the 60-year-old male and investigation into this matter continues.

Search warrant in Cold Lake

On Jan. 21, Elk Point RCMP were involved in an investigation that led to search warrant conducted at a residence in Cold Lake. As a result of the search warrant, approximately one pound of marihuana and \$15,000 cash were seized. A Cold Lake male has been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of proceeds of crime.

Stolen snowmobile

On Jan. 22, information was received regarding a stolen 2010 Arctic Cat snow machine in Fishing Lake. A search warrant was conducted on a residence leading to the recovery of the vehicle. The vehicle, valued at \$15,000, was seized to await the identification of the rightful owner. A 32-year-old Fishing Lake male has been charged with possession of stolen property.

Domestic violence

On Jan. 21 at approximately 9 p.m. Elk Point RCMP responded to an assault in Frog Lake. The male suspect and female victim were arguing over money when the suspect threw a plastic toy at the victim. The toy struck the victim in the head. The 35-year-old Frog Lake male was taken into custody and brought before a justice of the peace for a bail hearing. The male was charged with one count of assault and released with strict conditions. The female victim was not injured during this occurrence.

On Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. a number of 911 calls were received from a female in rural Elk Point. The female was driving home with a male who was intoxicated. The female thought the male was driving too fast and she told him to slow down. The male told the female to exit the vehicle and walk home. The female complied and when she finally arrived home the male assaulted her. Members attended the residence and placed the male under arrest. The 37-year-old St. Paul male has been charged with assault and is due to appear in St. Paul Provincial Court to speak to the charge. Alcohol was a factor in this occurrence. The female victim was not injured.

Assaults

On Jan. 28 at 8:50 p.m., Elk Point RCMP were called to a residence in Elk Point after receiving a complaint that two women were fighting. Members attended and found that a 25-year-old female had physically assaulted her 43-year-old mother. The two had been arguing over the use of a telephone. The 25-year-old female has been charged with assault and will appear in St. Paul Provincial Court. This is the fifth time Elk Point RCMP has been dispatched to the residence since the beginning of 2010.

On Jan. 30 at 2:15 a.m., members of the Elk Point RCMP were conducting a walk-thought at the Slinger's Pub in Elk Point when a male and a female were observed fighting. Investigation found that the female had slapped the male in the face and then he shoved her back. The female was angry after the male left their house in the middle of the night to go drinking. The two were charged with assault and appeared in St. Paul Provincial Court. The two agreed to complete alternative measures.

On Feb. 3 at 6:00 p.m., Elk Point RCMP were called by a 13-year-old female who reported that her father had assaulted her mother in Frog Lake. Members attended and determined that the male suspect had pushed the female victim and pulled

her hair during an argument the previous night. The male was arrested and remains in custody to await a court appearance. The female victim did not suffer any injuries.

Harassment and threats

On Jan. 28, Elk Point RCMP were contacted by a male in Elk Point who was being threatened and harassed. The suspect male had made repeated comments toward the complainant, stating that he would assault him and harm him in some way. A 45-year-old Elk Point male has been charged criminally with harassment and uttering threats.

Environmental concerns

During the night of Jan. 28, Elk Point RCMP were contacted by a concerned citizen after they saw an oil-field company pumping water out of Laurier Lake. RCMP conducted inquiries into the matter and determined that the company was properly permitted to use the lake water in their operations.

Impaired driving

On Jan. 30 at 3:20 a.m., RCMP conducted a traffic stop in Frog Lake. When the member attended the vehicle it was determined that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and brought to the Elk Point Detachment, where breath samples determined a blood alcohol concentration of twice the legal limit. The 21-year-old male driver has been charged with impaired operation of a motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level in excess of 80 mg per cent.

Stolen property

During the afternoon of Jan. 30, RCMP conducted a search warrant at a residence in Fishing Lake after information was received that the homeowner was in possession of a stolen quad. The stolen quad was located during the search and the homeowner was also found to be on outstanding warrants. The 53-year-old Fishing Lake male has been charged with possession of stolen property.

Friends try again

The Friends of Fort George and Buckingham House are making another attempt at holding their 2010 annual meeting, after thick fog caused cancellation on Jan. 14.

The meeting has been rescheduled for Wed., Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at Elk Point Municipal Library, when the group hopes to start planning their support of the provincial historic site's 2010 summer events and programs.

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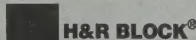
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Tax Tip

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Elk Point 4-H members share opinions at speak-off

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Eighteen speakers and three demonstrations kept all eyes and ears focused on the stage at Elk Point Seniors Recreation Centre on Sunday, as Elk Point 4-H Multi Club hosted their annual Public Speaking Competition.

Topics were many and varied, ranging from world issues and modern technology to sports and careers.

"They were wonderful, well-prepared children," senior judge Brenda Bintz commented at the conclusion of more than three hours of prepared and impromptu speeches. "Public speaking is one of your biggest assets, and number one in a fact-finding interview. All the paperwork can't replace it. You've done a fabulous job."

Junior judge Elena Drobot wished there had been more speakers in that age group, and said the two juniors "did a lot of work on their speeches and their delivery. Their topics were very timely."

Laverne Wilson, who judged intermediate speakers and presentations, commented on the time faults in that category, and said that unfortunately, they had had a bearing on the results. "Pause," he suggested. "Connect with your audience. You were enthusiastic and well organized."

The three shared the judging honours with Donna Bassett, Daphne Schnurer and Lorraine Danyluk. Joanne Bepalko and Ellen Seward were in their familiar roles as timers and tellers, with Lucille Smith and Melinda Heathcote presiding over the impromptu table. Senior 4-H member Alanna Ockerman served as the afternoon's MC. All received gifts from the public speaking committee before committee members Kayla Gibson, Bailey Oster, Ashley Bristow, and Madison MacDonald presented trophies to the winners.

Seniors

Darren Tymofichuk received the ATB trophy for first place in the senior category with a well-thought-out speech on genetic modification of foods, entitled, "To Modify or Not to Modify," followed up with an impromptu that emphatically answered "yes!" to the question, "Is Christmas getting too commercialized?"

A second round of impromptu, both on the topic "Peer Pressure," broke a tie for second in the senior division between Janice Tymofichuk, whose prepared speech, "Deceiving to the Naked Eye" dealt with psychopaths and whose impromptu discussed career choices, and Brianna White, whose prepared speech outlined the need for compassion, involvement and volunteering to help the less fortunate, and whose impromptu followed in the same vein, with donating to a worthy cause stated as her preferred use for \$1,000.

Janice was eventually declared winner of the second place plaque from Servus Credit Union.

Kayla Gibson, Bailey Oster, Taylor Robbie, Jessica Wirsta and Katelynn Vallee also competed in the senior division.

Intermediate

In the intermediate group, Dayle Oster took home the Dog Inspection trophy for her prepared speech on her greatest challenge, doing well in school, following that up with an impromptu on the importance of exercise. Second place, and the Lakeland Tire Ltd. trophy, went to Britney Heathcote, whose prepared speech told "The Secret to Teen Happiness," and her impromptu on "My mentor."

Wyatt Heathcote, Hannah Porozni, Brycen White, Kaylee Poitras and Edna Kulczycki also competed in the intermediate group.

Junior

Dana Gibson edged out sister Leanna for the first place junior trophy from the Elk Point Review, with her speech on recycling tires and batteries and an impromptu on "A perfect Saturday afternoon." Leanna received the Woody's Trophy and Gifts award for her speech on the Olympics and an impromptu on her summer plans.

Two individual and one shared presentation vied for awards in the intermediate age group. Ashley Bristow and Madison MacDonald shared the first place honours sponsored by Elk Point Community Lions for their knowledgeable presentation on baseball, while Alexis Bristow took second prize, sponsored by Big M Mechanical with an explanation of the language and technology of texting. The third presentation, on the creation of a sweet treat, came from Nicole Tymofichuk.



Vicki Brooker photos

The day's top competitors accepted the applause of the audience after an afternoon of speeches and presentations. Left to right are Janice Tymofichuk, Darren Tymofichuk, Dana Gibson, Britney Heathcote, Ashley Bristow, Dayle Oster, Leanna Gibson, Madison MacDonald and Alexis Bristow.



Nicole Tymofichuk stirs up a sweet delight during her demonstration. More demonstrations, Page 5.

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EDITORIAL

More than a few good men

Congratulations to Doug Bassett on joining an elite lineup of individuals who have had an important role in not only the Elk Point Oilmen's Association, but also in the community.

All of the winners of the prestigious Oilman of the Year award have been much more than just oilmen. Every last one of them has been a staunch community supporter, involved in many aspects of local life, from clubs and organizations to sports teams to other aspects of volunteering. Those who still live here continue to serve the community in a host of ways.

Yes, Doug, you'll fit right in with those fellows.

WAY BACK WHEN...

History focus, hospital crisis, halted bonspiel

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND THE ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 9 IN...

1985

The Management Assistance Program sponsored by the chamber of commerce proved "a more than worthwhile investment" for participating businesses, according to chamber president Carol Metz. Elk Point Co-op Pee-wees won the eight-team Westmin Cup tournament with a 5-3 victory over St. Paul, with Robin Yakemchuk, Jim Onusko and David Meger scoring singles and Kevin Bates a pair of goals for the host team.

1990

The chamber of commerce annual meeting focused on the future and on history, as Larry Pearson of Alberta Culture Historic Sites introduced plans for development at Fort George and Buckingham House historic sites to new president Millie Orr and the membership. Elk Point Agricultural Society withdrew their offer to purchase 35 acres of land in the north subdivision for an agricultural pavilion and fairgrounds in the wake of a wave of protest from local residents.

1995

Close to 500 area residents jammed the Elks Hall to plead with Lakeland Regional Health board chair Dareld Cholak, CEO Don Carley and area manager Barb Gregoire for retention of hospital service in Elk Point. Local florist Millie Orr found her stock of Valentine's Day roses frozen solid after a power outage caused cooler problems just days before her busiest day of the year.

2000

The 17th annual Elk Point Oilmen's Bonspiel came to a screeching halt when a Freon leak caused the ice to soften early Sunday afternoon, with only the Grand Challenge finalists able to complete their game, Reid's Welding winning that one over Bar Engineering. Eugene Buck became the third generation chamber of commerce president in his family when he was sworn in at the chamber's annual meeting, following in the footsteps of his father, Ed Buck, and his grandfather, Eugene McDonnell, who was the chamber's founding president.

2005

Excited F. G. Miller High School French exchange participants welcomed their 'twins' from St. Charles École Secondaire in Pont-Rouge, Quebec. Nominating committee chair Jonny Nielsen told the chamber of commerce he had no prospects to report for the positions of president and vice-president for the coming year.

GUEST COLUMN

Nurturing families

This coming weekend is rally a big important weekend. Of course, students and some adults are looking forward to the long weekend, as they will be getting Monday off. Sunday, Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. Monday, Feb. 15 is Family Day is Family Day and National Flag of Canada Day. So no matte which recognition you want to give these days, it really involves spending some time with family.

It can be said that families are the most important unit of society. After all, it is in families where children learn how to treat each other and how to contribute to society. Parents have the primary responsibility for the welfare of their children. Ideally, the home carries out this responsibility in the governance of love. The home is the great laboratory of love. It is in the home that the rare chemicals of selfishness and greed are melded in the crucible of cooperation to yield compassionate concern and love one for another.

However, we all know that in life, families can go through rough waters. Husbands and wives don't always recognize each other's needs. For example, Russell M. Nelson relates what he observed on an airplane flight as he was traveling. He sat behind a husband and wife. "She obviously loved her husband. As she stroked the back of his neck, I could see her wedding ring. She would nestle close to him and rest her head upon his shoulder, seeking his companionship. In contrast, he seemed totally oblivious to her presence. He was focused solely upon an electronic game player. During the entire flight, his attention was riveted on that device. Not once did he look at her, speak to her or acknowledge her yearning for affection. His inattention

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.



deanna
EASTHOPE
from the FCSS desk

made me feel like shouting, "Open your eyes, man! Can't you see? Pay attention! Your wife loves you! She needs you!"

Yes, marriage brings greater possibilities for happiness than any other human relationship. Yet, some married couples fall short of their full potential. They let their romance become rusty, take it for granted, and allow other interests or clouds of neglect to obscure their vision of what their marriage really could be. Marriage would be happier if nurtured more carefully.

Now, what about children? In David P. Goldman's book 'Demographics and Depression.' First Things, May 2009, 24, he states the following. In 196, minor children formed half the population; now they constitute only 30 per cent. Predictions are that by the year 2025, single-person households will outnumber families with children. This quote is very disturbing. But, as husbands and wives and parents of children, this projection can be changed. We need to love one another, and nurture all relationships in our families. This coming weekend is a good weekend to find ways to nurture.

There is a good poem from the Yiddish song "Mayn Yingle" ("My Little One") where a father sings to his sleeping child:

"I have a son, a little son, a boy completely fine,
Whenever I see him,
It seems to me that all the world is mine.
But seldom, seldom do I see my child awake and bright,
I only see him when he sleeps; I'm only home at night.
It's early when I leave for work,
When I return, it's late
Unknown to me is my own flesh,
Unknown is my child's face.
When I come home so wearily
In the darkness after day,
My pale wife exclaims to me:
"You should have seen our child play."
I stand beside his little bed; I look and try to hear,
In his dream he moves his lips: "Why isn't Papa here?"

ELK POINT REVIEW

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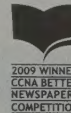


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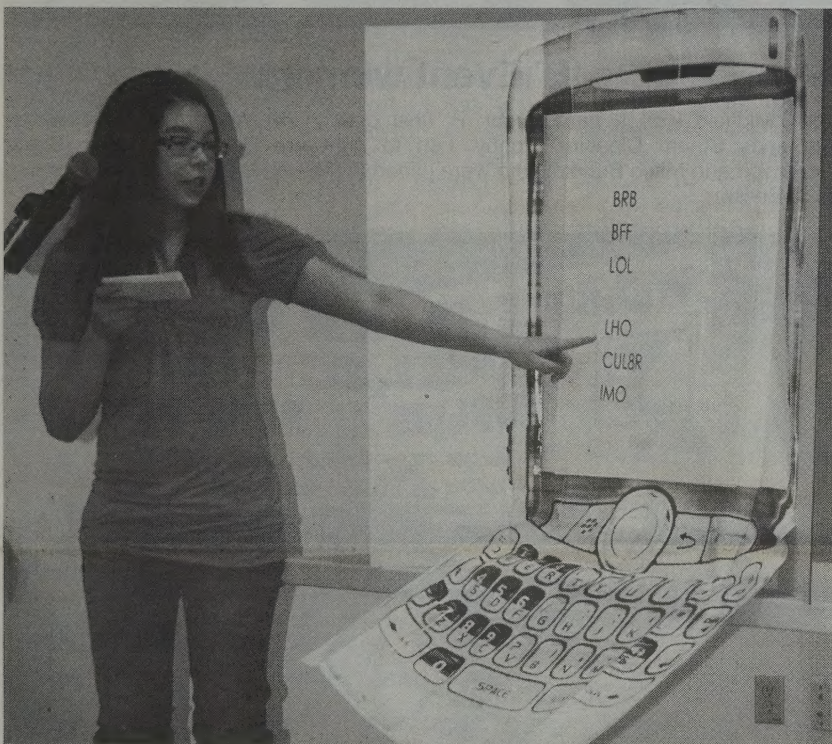
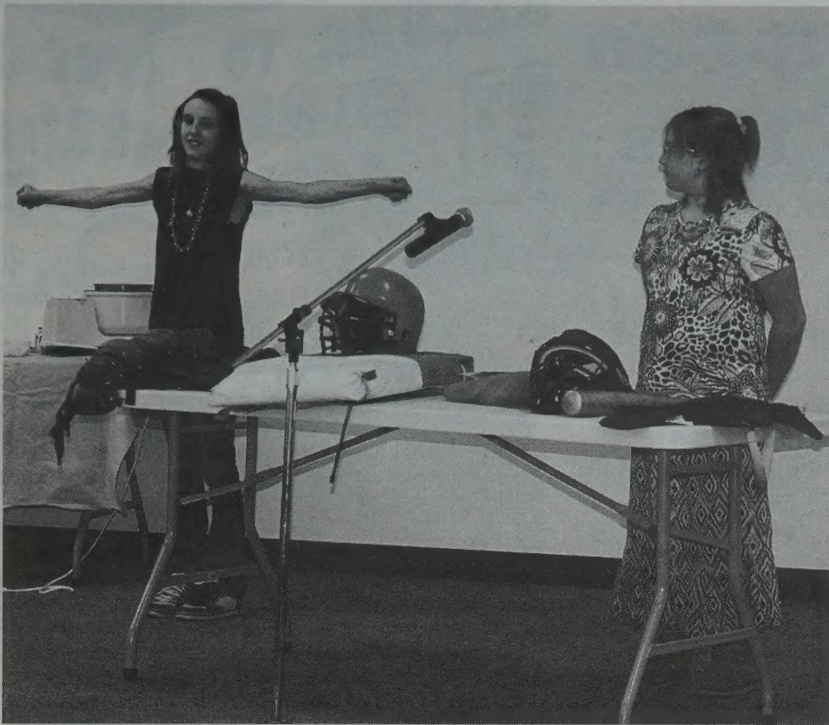


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Canada

Elk Point 4-H members go hands-on in demo competition



'Arrest' fines could add up for water park funding

By Vicki Brooker
Review Staff

When it comes to raising money for the proposed Elk Point water spray park, Valerie Lazicki and her committee are coming up with more and more ways to put the 'fun' in fundraising.

With more than two months to go before their big Comedy Fest on April 24, they've come up with another fun event in the meantime, Lazicki says.

"We're having an Arrest-a-thon. You can nominate people you'd like to see arrested, and we'll have them picked up and brought to the Elks Hall on the afternoon of March 5. We'll have a judge there to tell them what the charge is, and how much of a fine they'll have to pay to get their freedom."

The committee plans to trump up a few light-hearted charges to be levied on the captor, and is inviting the public to stop by for coffee and doughnuts and see this spoof on the justice system in action.

The event's being held on a workday "because it makes it easier to track down the people. We will have made arrangements with a co-worker or spouse to find out where the person will be, and we're trying to rope in at least one RCMP

to add authenticity" to the arrests. "I hope we won't have too many of them that are off the beaten track."

Fines collected during what Lazicki predicts will be "a fun afternoon" will go toward the Water Spray Park.

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Call Valerie 780-724-4552 for more info.
Proceeds to Elk Point Water Spray Park.

Fun for free on Family Day

By Vicki Brooker
Review Staff

The Town of Elk Point is promoting fun for Family Day, and it won't cost a cent. Public skating will be available, both in the arena from noon until 3:30 p.m. and on the outdoor rink, and from noon to 1:30 p.m., there will be free hot dogs, hamburgers and hot beverages outside the arena. Make sure to come down and enjoy some fun and food with your family on Monday, Feb. 15.

'Ten' the word for fair photo challenge

By Jennifer Van der Hoek
Elk Point Fair Board

Since 2010 is here, I wanted to remind you that the challenge word for the Photography section is "Ten" for this year's Elk Point and District Agricultural Society Craft and Horticulture Show and Quilt Exhibition. Did you take pictures at New Year's with a "Welcome 2010" banner in the background? Is there a little person in your life turning 10 this spring? Did you and your friends catch 10 fish while ice fishing? Use your imagination. I'm sure you can find something to photograph for the challenge.

Also keep in mind that the special display at this year's Quilt Show is antique and handmade bedroom linens. If you have anything you would like to contribute to this display (which is not judged), please phone Verona Lea Flanders at 780-724-2269.

Have you been saving your kids' schoolwork somewhere so that it's ready to enter in the Junior Fair? With a wide variety of categories, including painting, woodwork, jewelry, writing, photography, macaroni art, scrapbooking and so much more, there should be plenty of things they can enter.

Bassett

(Continued from Front Page)

Bassett has been a part of the oil patch for more than 30 years and is the manager of B & R Eckels in Elk Point.

Hahn's announcement of the winner brought a totally incredulous Bassett to the stage to "thank everybody for making me cry. I have no idea what to say, but I know that I'm in a group with a lot of great guys, and I'm really proud to be up here."

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Draw champion

Draw to the Button champion Scott Penz accepted his prize cheque from bonspiel committee member Jason Hayman. Bryce Lorensen came second closest to the pin while third prize went to Murray Cochrane.

Congratulations to all the winners!

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E-Can tops oil spiel

(Continued from Front Page)

Gadowski may have been 'D'-moted, but he was more than up for the challenge in the bonspiel's 'D' final event, where he charged to a win over Kudu Industries.

Curlers from all 24 rinks competed in the Draw to the Button event, with Scott Penz landing right on the money. Bryce Lorensen was a close second and Murray Cochrane took the third prize.

There was also a special prize for the first team to be knocked out of the action, this going to the Diablo foursome.

This year's trophy presentation moved up the hill to the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre, where MC Tim Smereka announced the winners after a bountiful banquet.

*Congratulations
to the organizers
on another great
Elk Point
Oilmen's
Bonspiel!*



Vicki Brooker photos

'B' Event winners

MRC Midfield won a hard-fought 'B' final over Hahn Welding to capture the Tarsands Steam Cleaning trophy. Left to right are Robyn Moroziuk, Bryce Lorensen and Mitch Brekko, who were joined in their endeavours by (not shown) Kurt Becker.



'C' Event winners

The B & R Eckels rink accepted the BMW Monarch challenge trophy for their 'C' final win over Weatherford Bonnyville. Left to right are Chris Gusnowski, Doug Bassett, skip Terry Gusnowski, Keith Campbell and Jerry Kopeck, who tag-teamed the lead position with Chris.



'D' Event winners

Doug Bassett presented the B & R Eckels trophy to Leonard Gadowski and his Shamrock Valley Enterprises teammates Curtis Porcina, Shane Pacholok and Owen Gibson after their 'D' Final win over the Kudu rink.

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Thunder, Lightning host eight-team tournament

I think a lot of people were happy when this past weekend was over and they could go back to work for a rest. A busy, busy weekend in Elk Point with the Oilmen's annual bonspiel downtown and the two novice teams hosting an eight-team hockey tournament up the hill all the volunteers were tapped right out.



**doug
BASSETT**

Review Sports

The **Novice Thunder** were the first to take to the ice on Saturday winning over St. Paul #1 team 7 to 2. A tight tied game for the first two periods, with the help of Cyle Graus who strapped on the goalie pads for his first time ever and was phenomenal coming up with huge saves for the Thunder, after the second period something happened, the team came out skating like wildfire. Ethan Tremblay and Angus McFarlane with two each, Colton Van Maarion and Dylan Ference with one each, Hayden Ludlage with a goal and an assist, and Sam Henderson picking up a helper.

In their second game Saturday evening, Thunder met up with a strong team from Cold Lake, Angus McFarlane and Ethan Tremblay scoring, Colton Van Maarion and Hayden Ludlage with the assists, Erin Duffee was between the pipes in this one and faced a ton of rubber.

Sunday the Thunder with another big win this time over Pierceland, Parker Allen in the cage shut the door on Pierceland for the first period, the final score, 8 to 4 in favor of the Thunder. Hayden Ludlage and Ethan Tremblay with hat tricks, Dylan Ference and Angus McFarlane scoring singles.

Meanwhile, the **Novice Lightning** faced off against St. Paul #2 team on Saturday afternoon, losing a close one 5 to 3. Dustyn Pankiw with the hat trick in this one, Spencer Hardcastle holding down the fort.

In their second game with Dustyn Pankiw behind the mask and doing a superb job, the Lightning struck down Dewberry 4 to 2. Tammy Roberts kicked it into high gear, pulling away from all the boys on a break-away; to score the first one, Devon Nazarchuk, Spencer Hardcastle and Lyon Cueva also finding the twine.

In the last game against Cold Lake #2 the Lightning

played their best game of the weekend and even though they did lose, they didn't make it easy for them, in fact the score was tied four-all in the second period. Dustyn Pankiw with a hat trick, Lyon Cueva and Kaiden Evans-Anderson lit up the lamp as well, Spencer Hardcastle was outstanding in net, Brandon James with a great effort skating hard

both ways, fore-checking and back-checking. Conner Lychak was solid on the blue line.

Hats off to all the parents and coaching staff of both of our novice teams, the Thunder and Lightning working together and pulling off a huge fun-filled tournament without a hitch, even staying on time, which can be quite a challenge with that many teams.

Over in St. Paul on the weekend, the **Atom Avalanche** didn't fare very well when they played in a tournament there, playing three strong teams and some sick players in the lineup didn't help the cause either. Meeting Millwoods in the first game, Brodin "the Flying Bull" Ference with two goals, Brody "the Big O" Odgaard with one, Chad Poitras, Chansie Botting and Brian Bazian assisting. They met another strong team from Redwater in their second game, the "Flying Bull" with four goals, Brian Bazian assisting on three of them. In the last match the "Flying Bull" scored two against Sherwood Park, Amy Harms getting the helper.

The **Bantam Avalanche** lost their last league game in Dewberry on Saturday with tightwad Brayden "Mr. Scrooge" Vinge in net, Jarred "Snipes" McGilvery, Brett "the Moose" Ockerman and "Dayton 500" Mercredi scoring. On



Jackie Ludlage photo

Elk Point Novice Avalanche #1, A.K.A. Thunder, is coached by Christoph Ludlage with the assistance of Greg VanMaarion, Rodney Graus and Mark Allen and managed by (not shown) Robbi Allen.

Sunday the boys with a very short bench traveled to Viking for an exhibition game, "Dayton500" scoring the only goal. Brandon Bourne was busy between the pipes; he saw his share of the rubber for sure.

The **Midget Girls Storm** traveled to Bonnyville on Sunday, Lindsey "Goldilocks" MacDonald and Tori "T-Rex" Becker scoring.

I thought I knew everything that went on in this town but obviously not. The best-kept secret in town was the **Oilman of the Year** award that I received on Saturday night. Caught me completely off guard, choked up and speechless, so I want to take this opportunity to thank the Oilmen's Association for my nomination. It's a huge honor to be included with the likes of Al Pankiw, Armand Houle, Marshall Kachmar, Bill Jennissen, Ted Yarmuch, Allan Frankiw and Ian Huffman, all oilmen that I had the pleasure to work with over the years and they are gentlemen that I admire and respect.

It's been a great week, first our B&R curling team won the third event, the Leafs won twice, the "Marksman" Mark Letestu scored his first NHL goal and my high school buddy Bob Cameron, who played 22 years with the Blue Bombers, and was our quarterback at Ancaster High,



Novice Avalanche #2 (A.K.A. Lightning) is coached by Kevin Hardcastle with the assistance of Greg Lychak, and managed by (not shown) Maria Cueva.

was elected to the CFL hall of fame. Doesn't get any better than this.

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week. "Nobody played better defense on me than Steve Kasper. When I got married I half expected to see Kasper standing at the altar in a tux." Last week's answer to: "Goalies are fine fellow when you meet them at center ice. They are fine fellows off the ice too. But don't think this cordiality is going to apply when you skate by the front of his cave. He'll slice you up if you come in close." — Chandler Sterling.

Lac La Biche / St. Paul PC Constituency Association NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Dry soil conditions pose risk to area hay and pasture

Dry soil conditions across most of the province, including St. Paul County, have cattle producers becoming increasingly concerned as they near the end of their winter feed supplies. Many are worried about the impact dry soils could have on their pasture and hay land this spring once the snow melts, says provincial forage and grazing specialist Grant Lastiwka, who speaks with producers province-wide through the Ag-Info Centre telephone hotline operated by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD).

Much Drier than Last Year

"We're much drier than this time last year," confirms ARD soil moisture specialist Ralph Wright. Extremely low soil moisture, typically seen once in 25 years on average, is being recorded across large areas of central and northern Alberta, stretching from Calgary to Westlock and north-eastern Alberta, as well as in large parts of the Peace Region. "That extreme dry soil zone is four times larger than this time last year," says Wright.

In St. Paul County, soil moisture generally ranges from very low levels seen once in 12 years on average in the western half of the county, to moderately low in the east, according to provincial soil moisture maps published in late January.

"Most of the province didn't get the moisture recharge we needed this fall before the ground froze," says Wright. He adds plenty of spring rain will be needed to replenish dry soils and avoid a repeat of last year when drought conditions across much of the province crippled pasture and hay production.

Plants are Stressed

But Lastiwka warns no matter how much rain and snow melt we get this spring, producers should probably expect lower hay and pasture yields and definitely a delayed start

to the grazing season - at least a month later than usual in the driest areas. "Plenty of rain will be critical, but prolonged dry soil conditions mean these plants are stressed and may take twice as long as healthy plants to grow," he explains.

Lastiwka explains that the root systems and energy reserves of forage plants in many areas have been depleted by lack of moisture. He adds in many cases the damage is greater due to the hard choices cattle producers have been forced to make - such as overgrazing and under fertilizing amid high feed and fertilizer prices, and low returns in a struggling industry. If cattle begin grazing too soon this spring, he warns the damage to pasture will be much worse, and take longer to undo.

Feed Supplies Running Low

"It's a serious situation because the majority of producers are very tight on feed supplies. Very few have enough to carry them through an extra month of feeding this spring," he says, noting hay prices have doubled due to short supplies. "Many producers rely on extending the grazing season on pastures as long as possible as the most cost-effective way to feed their herds. Now that tool may not be there when they need it most," says Lastiwka, adding that in some areas, higher numbers of grasshoppers are poised to damage hay and pasture if conditions remain dry this spring.

February 28 Deadline to Insure Hay and Pasture

Producers need to plan now for a later start to grazing, the risk of lower yields and the possibility of another dry spring, says Lastiwka. He recommends they consider strategies such as reducing herd sizes to stretch feed dollars further, renting additional pasture, fertilizing forage stands if

possible, and insuring hay and pasture land. With the February 28 deadline to insure hay and pasture in Alberta just weeks away, producers must decide soon whether insurance will be part of their plan.

"There are no easy answers. Managing your risk is important. It's a matter of positioning yourself within what's best for your operation," says Lastiwka.

Forced to Sell Herd

Phil Amyotte runs a mixed grain and beef operation near Mallaig, north of St. Paul. Two years of drought conditions back-to-back have left his pastures "pretty dry and definitely over grazed." He didn't get much of a hay crop last summer, so Amyotte sold his cows in September and currently has 250 calves on feed. "If the moisture looks okay this spring, I'll try to buy some cattle back, but not too many. I'm not going to stock as much on the pasture this year. It needs time to grow back before throwing any cattle onto it," he says. "A person has to start making decisions early in the year and you can't be afraid to liquidate cattle."

During the 2002 drought, Amyotte fed his cows \$100 bales of hay only to suffer poor returns in 2003. He says he won't make that mistake again. With cattle prices low and hay prices high, he says it just made sense to sell the cows. Now he's got twice as much pasture as he needs "as long as we get some spring moisture." He adds hay and pasture insurance is an important part of his planning. His 2009 claim payment has helped cover feed expenses and pay bills. "It gives you enough to get by for another year and hope for better growing conditions in the spring."

Insurance claims exceed \$54 million

Last year, more than \$54 million in hay and pasture insurance claims were paid out due to the dry, cool conditions.

(Continued on Page 12)

Unauthorized trail clearing now under investigation

By JANANI WHITFIELD
Review Contributor

An unauthorized trail clearing by the North Saskatchewan riverbank is under scrutiny, with Alberta's Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) investigating and the County of Two Hills getting legal opinions on what its next step should be.

Since the County of Two Hills is getting legal advice, CAO Robert Jorgenson declined to comment on the case, only stating, "(Alberta) Environment is involved and we're going to follow the recommendations."

Dave Pundick, a director for Lac Sante Family Recreation Society, had earlier confirmed that on Jan. 13, the society had begun clearing trails to expand an all-season trail for ATV and snowmobile use in the Counties of Two Hills and St. Paul, with trail work occurring by the riverbank and along a right-of-way road allowance. Pundick

said that the society had been working with both counties and thought that there had been approval to do the work. According to Pundick's wife, Gloria, who is also a member of the society, the society has not had further discussion on the issue in the time since.

"We did a temporary field authorization to allow the Lac Sante Family Recreation Society to complete some fencing along the trail only on public land," said Kathy Kiel, spokesperson for SRD. But according to SRD and the Counties of St. Paul and Two Hills, there hadn't been further permission to clear trees for a trail.

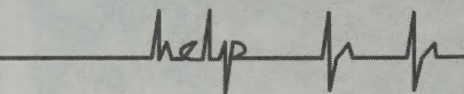
Mitch Lavoie, a landowner who leased the closed road allowance along the right-of-way path that was cleared, said he had gone out to the area with County of Two Hills and Alberta Environment representatives.

"They were very professional; they

knew what they were doing," he said of the Alberta Environment representatives. Within two days, Alberta Environment had written a letter, stating that the inspection revealed the cutting of trees along the slopes leading to the river and cuts carved into the river bank, which have the potential to cause erosion and siltation. All work on the bank must stop and immediate erosion protection works have to be put into place before the spring thaw "until a permanent plan can be agreed upon between the titled land owners," states the Alberta Environment letter.

"The question is who's going to pay for it," said Lavoie. Since Lavoie had leased the closed road allowance, he is prepared to foot the bill, but is waiting until the County of Two Hills has had further time to look into the issue.

"We all want to be law-abiding and do what needs to be done," Lavoie said.



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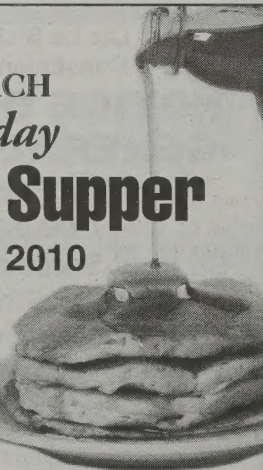


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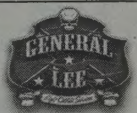


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Plans progressing for World Day of Prayer

BY VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Representatives of five local churches have already started planning their joint World Day of Prayer service, which will be held March 5 at the Elk Point United Church.

Mary Bezpalko of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Lesia Porcina and Amelia Jasinsky of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Pastor Bill and Wanda Kryzanowski, Ruth Vogel and Elda Magnusson of the Christian Community Church, Armand Houle, Paul Chamberland and Gabe Bayduza of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church and Donna Chamberland and Shirley Kvill of Elk Point United Church met Jan. 12 to begin planning the event, with Kvill as coordinator.

World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical service and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, Kvill says.

This year's service, with the theme, "Let everything that has breath praise God," has been written by the World Day of

Prayer committee of Cameroon, Africa, and the local committee viewed a video of that country at their organizational meeting. Anyone who would like to see this video may contact Kvill at (780) 943-3338.

The organizers have now confirmed Elk Point resident Seyi Oyebo, who moved here from Nigeria, as the guest speaker at the event to provide insight on issues facing society, and especially women, in that part of Africa.

World Day of Prayer was founded by women in Canada and the USA in 1922, and is now observed in more than 170 countries, with more than 2,000 Canadian communities taking part. Offerings received at last year's Canadian services provided aid to projects in Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Barbados as well as projects in Ontario, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and BC.

Wildrose Alliance looking to storm St. Paul constituency

BY JANANI WHITFIELD
Review Contributor

The Lac La Biche-St. Paul constituency may have long been a Tory stronghold, but the upstart Wildrose Alliance party is now trying to make inroads into this Progressive Conservative territory.

Wildrose Alliance MLA Rob Chestermere, who recently left the Tories to join the upstart right-of-centre party, will be coming to St. Paul to speak at an open public meeting on Feb. 17 as part of a drive to recruit more members to the still emerging Wildrose Alliance.

"We're pretty low on membership numbers in this area," said Terry Boettcher, a former director at large of the local PC association. He resigned his membership to become a volunteer organizer for the Wildrose Alliance association in the Lac La Biche-St. Paul constituency. "We're hoping this will spur on some interest in the party."

Boettcher, a paramedic who works in Two Hills, had been a lifelong Tory, but felt the party had stopped paying attention to the wants and needs of its membership.

"The new ideas, I don't think, are being heard," Boettcher said, adding he personally felt disenfranchised. He took issue with the Tories' liberal spending, not because of the spending itself, but because he felt the money was being mismanaged.

He joined the Wildrose Alliance, partly because he felt the party was interested in grassroots policy. It also promises fiscal conservatism, combined with better management of dollars by reducing bureaucratic red tape.

The Tories have become complacent and "rudderless" after 39 years in government without any credible opposition, said Boettcher. But the Wildrose Alliance leader Danielle Smith and her party have managed to create a meaningful alternative to the Tories, he said.

"That's why I think this new grassroots party is going to be successful," he said, adding that the challenge coming from the right will resonate with Albertans.

He acknowledged the Wildrose Alliance's policy was still thin, but said, "I think it's going to be a real pivotal time for the party." This could be the best time to get involved, since Albertans will be the ones to help establish party policies.

The meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Seniors Centre, is open to anyone, and Boettcher encourages people to come out to hear more about the party and find out if they're interested in joining. By mid-March, Boettcher is hoping that the executive for the association will be formed, with a candidate found by the end of this month to stand in the next provincial election.

Other parties have their associations, and the Wildrose Alliance may also set up an association in this constituency, noted current MLA and Minister of Infrastructure Ray Danyluk. "My objective, which it has been and will continue to be, is to work for my constituents the best that I can."

Learn a new language at your library

BY DAPHNE SCHNURER
Librarian

English speakers can learn French, Italian, Dutch, German or Spanish, and those who speak French, Italian, German, Spanish, Hungarian, Dutch, Turkish, Polish, Portuguese, Korean Chinese, or Japanese can learn English with instructions in their native tongue through a new program now available at the library.

Tell Me More® software will be available on all the library computer terminals, but those who hold a valid library card from any Alberta public library can also access the software, free of charge, from home via their library's home page.

The Tell Me More® site is a multi-sensory, interac-

tive experience that teaches proper pronunciation, listening and reading techniques while allowing users to practice phonetics, grammar and dialogue in real time.

This program is different from other language programs available because it offers a unique variety of multimedia learning tools to benefit all learning styles. It also has unlimited online access, so users can access it through their home computers as well as at the library. A handout to guide you through the process is available at the library.

The library is a great place to learn. Libraries are often the first place new immigrants go to reconnect with their own culture and to learn more about Canada.

The library offers a comfortable, familiar, non-intimidating environment to learn a new language.

Feel free to contact us at the library for assistance or for further information about this new addition to the library lineup.

Meeting moved back

The date for the library's annual meeting has been moved back one week, from Feb. 17 to Wed., Feb. 26, with the time the same at 6:30 p.m.. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The kids' after-school craft session will remain on Feb. 17.

Just a reminder to seniors that tomorrow is the February seniors' tea at 2 p.m. Join us for tea, coffee, goodies and good conversation.

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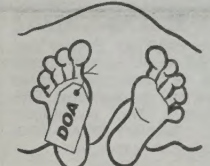
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200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

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FULL-TIME Meat Cutter required at Sobey's in Olds, Alberta. Benefits. Phone 403-556-3113 or fax resume to 403-556-8652. Attention: Rob.

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Reporting directly to the Store Manager, the Produce Manager is responsible for all aspects of operating a successful produce department including: scheduling, ordering, receiving, merchandising, gross margins, sales ratios, expense controls and supervising the produce department. Excellent customer service and interpersonal skills are essential. The successful candidate must have a minimum of three years of retail produce experience. TG offers a competitive compensation and benefit package as well as the opportunity for personal and professional development. If you have the skills and abilities to meet our expectations and want to progress with a dynamic organization, please forward your resume in confidence to: Senior Human Resources Officer, The Grocery People Ltd., 14505 Yellowhead Trail, Edmonton, AB T5L 3C4. Fax: 780-447-5781. Email: humanresources@tgp.ca.

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TERRITORY SALES Representative. Employer looking for salesperson with knowledge of drilling rigs and related equipment. Metal fabricating, sandblasting and painting knowledge or experience would be an asset. Effective communicator, with ability to maintain current accounts while pursuing new clients. Apply to: Do All Metal Fabricating Ltd. Apply to: Fax 1-306-634-8389. Email: cftzgerald@doallmetal.com.

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1700. Employment Wanted

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3010. Auctions

ANTIQUE AND COIN Auction! Quality antiques/collectibles. All categories. 11 a.m., Saturday, February 13. Coin/Currency sale 6:15p.m., Friday, February 12. Wainwright, Alberta. Scribner Auction, 780-842-5666; www.scribner.net.com.

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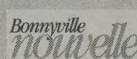
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Thank you for your interest, however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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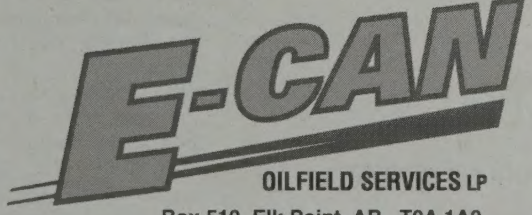
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20' WIDES Starting at \$109,900; 4 black appliances, jetted tub, PVC cabinets, media room, large island with raised eating bar. Be the first to call Commonwealth Homes 1-800-341-6675.

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Calendar winners

February's winners in the Elk Point Minor Hockey calendar draw have now been announced.

The \$20 winners are: Jackie Ludlage, Fern Sinclair, Steve Ference Nicole Goertzen, Sadie Langdone (St. John's NL), Jason & KrisAnn Jenner, Gordon Garrett, Tina Campbell, Donna Ockerman, Claudie Wood (St. Paul), Donna Ross (Lloydminster AB) Lynalll Slywka and Shirley Harms.

This month's \$100 winner is Dolly Delver of St. Paul.

Dry soil

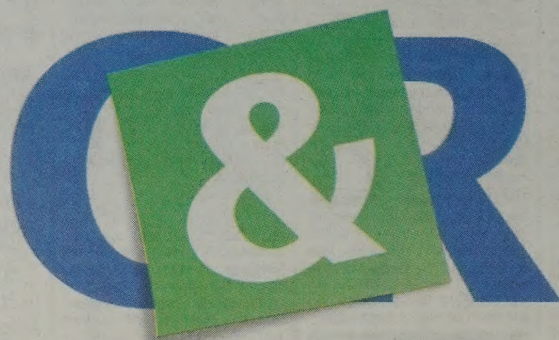
(Continued from Page 8)

"That's high compared to most years. We only paid out \$6.5 Million in 2008," says John Kresowaty, coordinator of Perennial Insurance Programs with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), the provincial Crown Corporation that administers crop insurance in Alberta on behalf of the provincial and federal governments. Most of the nearly 5,000 producers who purchased hay and pasture insurance received claim payments last year. With about two-thirds of the premiums and all administration costs funded by government, Kresowaty says producers view hay and pasture insurance as an affordable way to cover risk.

Hay insurance is based on an individual's hay production, while pasture insurance is area-based, relying on moisture readings at weather stations to determine when claims are triggered, explains Kresowaty. AFSC has added 10 new weather stations to its network this year for a total of 183 across the province. "The more weather stations we have, the closer they are to each producer's land base, and the better they reflect moisture conditions on each farm," he says.

Producers who want information on Perennial Insurance should contact their nearest AFSC office or phone the AFSC Call Centre at 1-877-899-2372 before the February 28 deadline.

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